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U.S. Department of Education to Release Educator Equity Data

BARRE – The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) will release data today on educator equity for all states, including Vermont.

This data release is part of a larger initiative by the USDE, which has determined that all states must examine the extent to which schools that serve students from historically underserved communities (poverty and high-minority populations) are enjoying the same access to quality educators as those school with greater privilege (wealthy and low-minority populations).

“The Vermont Agency of Education and State Board of Education share the federal government’s concern that equity for our students is a worthy goal,” said Amy Fowler, Deputy Secretary for the Agency. “In Vermont, we will engage our stakeholders in identifying the indicators of inequity in our schools and generating proposals for how to address those issues. It is an excellent opportunity to dovetail the work our State Board of Education has already undertaken with a federal requirement.”

The data used in the profiles come from three existing Department data sources: the Civil Rights Data Collection, EDFacts, and the Common Core of Data. However, these data may include errors or incorrect data submissions.

The Agency of Education is looking at Vermont’s validated data sources which are considered more reliable, to identify and determine what inequities may or may not exist across the state in terms of access to Educator Quality.

According to USDE, the Educator Equity Profiles are intended to be a resource and example for how a state might present data analyzing differences in teacher characteristics between schools across the state for purposes of identifying equity gaps and developing a *State Plan to Ensure Equitable Access to Excellent Educators*. The State Plan is due on June 1, 2015.

Over the course of the next several months, the Agency will be hosting regional meetings across the state to collect public input on a plan to ensure equitable access. Dates and locations for those meetings will be announced publicly in early 2015.

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